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28 February 2019

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

**Submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Economics – Treasury Laws Amendment
(Consumer Data Right) Bill 2019**

Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd and Powershop Australia Pty Ltd (**MEA Group**) thank the Senate Standing Committee on Economics (**Committee**) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Treasury Laws Amendment (Consumer Data Right) Bill 2019 (**Bill**).

The MEA Group is the owner and operator of the Mt Mercer and Mt Millar Wind Farms as well as the Hume, Burrinjuck and Keepit hydroelectric power stations. The MEA Group also owns and operates Powershop Australia, an innovative retailer committed to providing lower prices for customers and which recognises the benefits for customers of a transition to a more renewable based and distributed energy system.

The MEA Group has always been an advocate for empowering its customers. Powershop was the first electricity retailer in Australia to provide its customers with an app to monitor their usage and buy power, giving them access to as much data as possible on their energy usage in close to real-time.

The MEA Group is supportive of the intent of the Bill; however, we strongly suggest care is taken in the practical implementation of the legislation, particularly to ensure that the development of data standards takes into account the experience and approaches of designated sectors, and most importantly the customer experience. Generally, cost-effectiveness and operational efficiencies should also be front of mind, as it is likely that any development and compliance related costs which are borne by businesses will likely be passed through to consumers. As the Committee will be aware, consultation with each relevant sector will be essential to addressing these threshold requirements and realising the objectives of the Bill.

If you wish to discuss this further, feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Sutton

General Counsel
Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Powershop Australia Pty Ltd